175 Chao and Yen kingdoms. The line of the first
712 Great Wall of China, built by hundreds of
131 thousands of conscripted laborers, included more of the steppe region of Inner Mongolia and southwestern Manchuria than the last Great Wall constructed under the Ming Dynasty (1368 to 1644). This last frontier barrier in its eastern extensions largely coincided with the northern boundaries of Shansi and Hopei before the Japanese invasion of China in 1937. Other dynastic rulers of China up to the end of the imperial period (1912) have rebuilt and maintained the Great Wall along or between its
175 original and final extensions.[6] For all the
131 emperors, the reason for the existence of the
184 wall was the same: It was an attempt to
563 establish and maintain a line of demarcation between the settled Chinese peoples and the nomadic "barbarians."

563 The line of demarcation was never
311 definitely settled. Judging by the changes in the borders of the North China Region, the problem of establishing a true boundary between the "Han Chinese" and what are now called ethnic minorities still has not been solved. The continued existence of the problem arises

6. See map in Lattimore, op. cit., p. 336.

1:Stanford U. S-4, 5 1956 AF12 North China
~~AF12~~ AF12

563 from the fact that arable land suited to the
311 Chinese type of agriculture only gradually shades off into steppe land not suitable for farming.

175 The northern portions of Shansi (above
131 Taiyuan) and of Hopei (above Peking) are part
563 of this marginal zone. Unstable politically
184 and culturally, this area and its inhabitants were drawn toward the tribal culture of the steppes when it was on the rise or toward the imperial system of China proper when it was strong and united. The area was also a primary training ground in the Chinese way of life for nomads drawn, pushed, or invited into China as well as a Chinese staging area for campaigns of conquest in the steppe regions of Central and northern Asia. So marginal and politically unstable is northern Shansi that its upper and lower borders have at different times been included in the main line of the Great Wall, resulting in the encompassment of northern Shansi by remains of the frontier barrier. The frontier struggle began with the establishment of the first stable Chinese empire under the Han Dynasty (221 B.C. to A.D. 220) and lasted until at least the beginning of the Sino-Japanese War in 1937.[7]

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7. Lattimore, op. cit., develops the thesis of the origin, nature, and consequences of the frontier conflict.

2: Gamble S-5 (1926-1933,1954 AF12 North China AF12

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TABLE 115. PRECIPITATION, JUNE–SEPTEMBER, 1914–1929
(millimeters)

1914	255.0	1918	237.6	1922	287.6	1926	no data
1915	236.2[1]	1919	319.1	1923	332.1	1927	282.4
1916	326.0	1920	64.0	1924	828.1	1928	549.5
1917	755.4	1921	24.6	1925	no data	1929	389.0

[1] September missing.

134
311

TABLE 116. CULTIVATED LAND PER VILLAGE

Mu	*Villages*	*Per Cent*	*Mu*	*Villages*	*Per Cent*
Under 500	20	4.4	4,000–4,999	42	9.3
500–999	66	14.6	5,000–5,999	25	5.5
1,000–1,499	62	13.7	6,000–6,999	26	5.7
1,500–1,999	41	9.1	7,000–9,999	11	2.4
2,000–2,499	58	12.8	10,000 and over	10	2.2
2,500–2,999	36	8.0	Total	453	100.0
3,000–3,999	56	12.3			

Minimum 245 Maximum 32,500